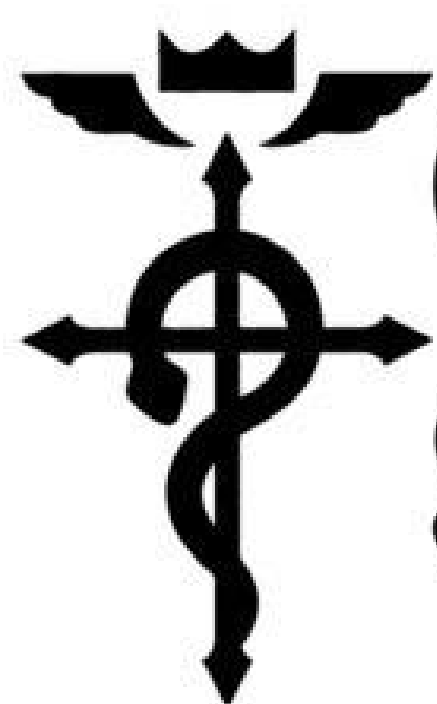


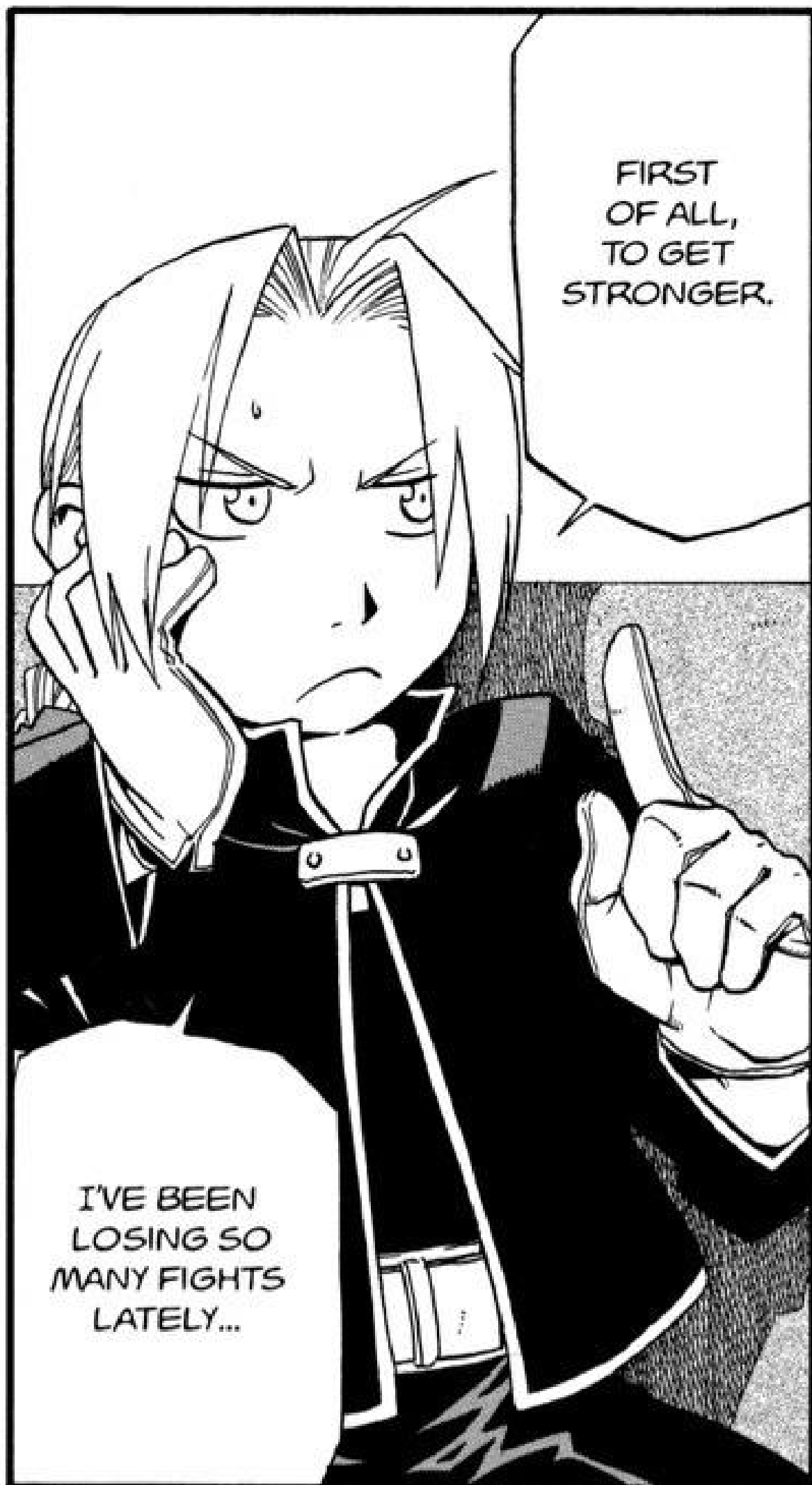


Chapter 16: Separate Paths



WHAT MADE
YOU GUYS
DECIDE TO
GO TO YOUR
TEACHER'S
PLACE ALL
OF A
SUDDEN?

FOR
TWO
REASONS.

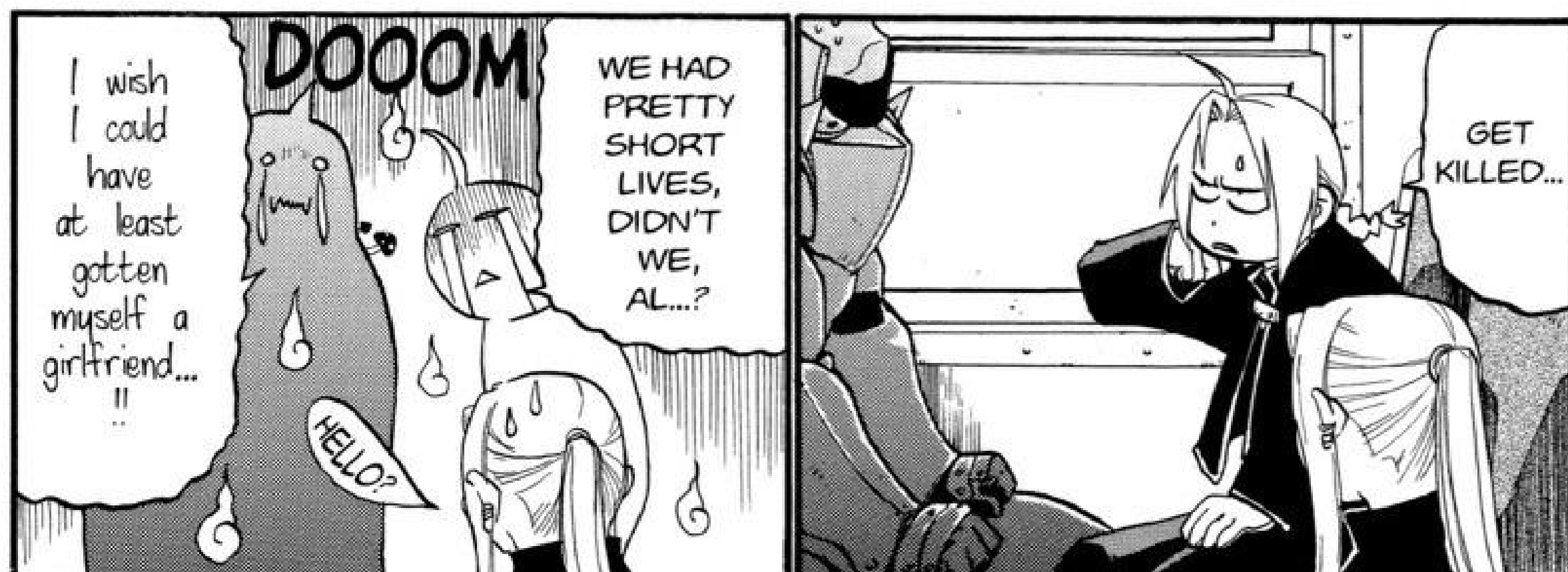
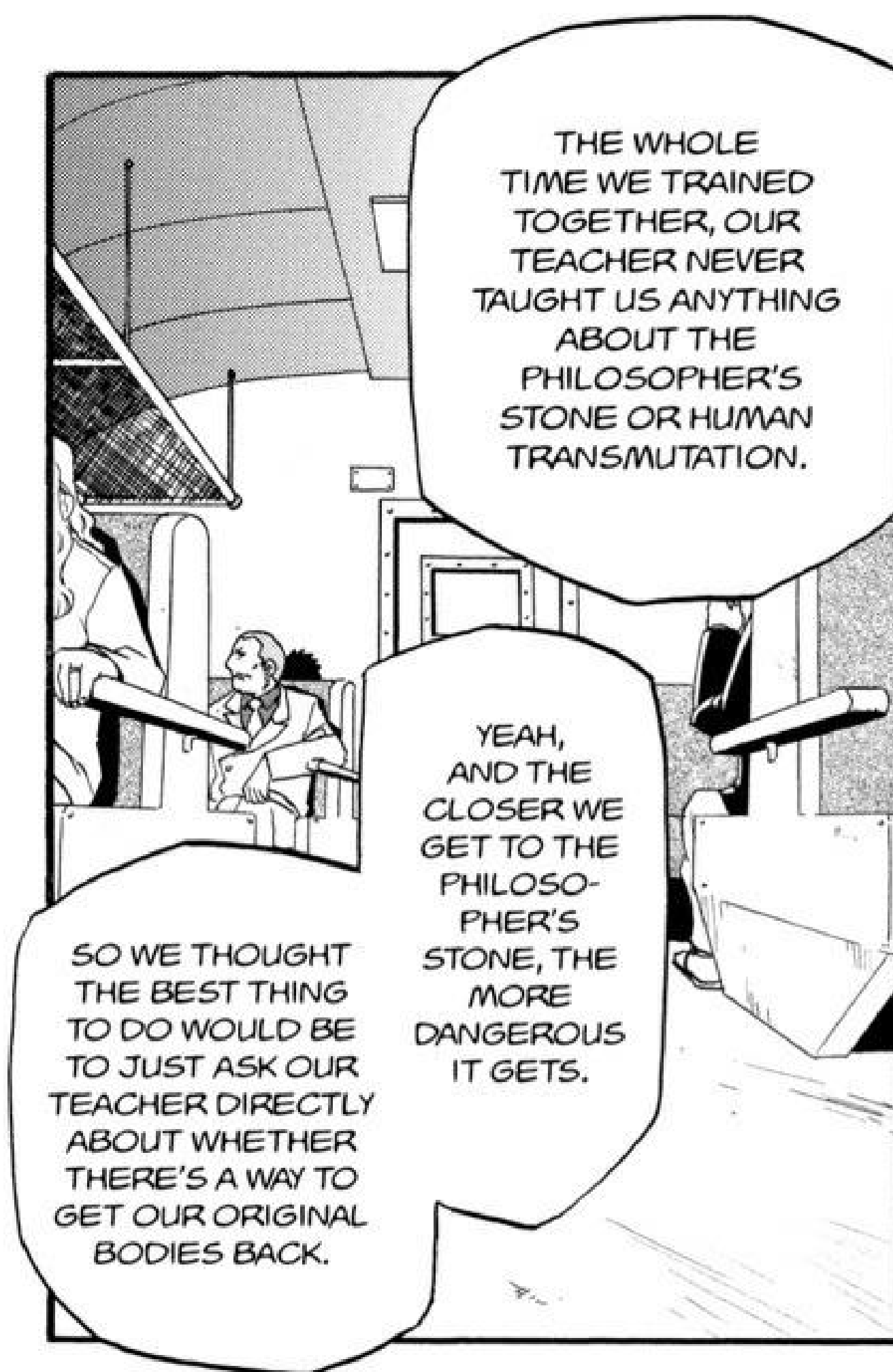


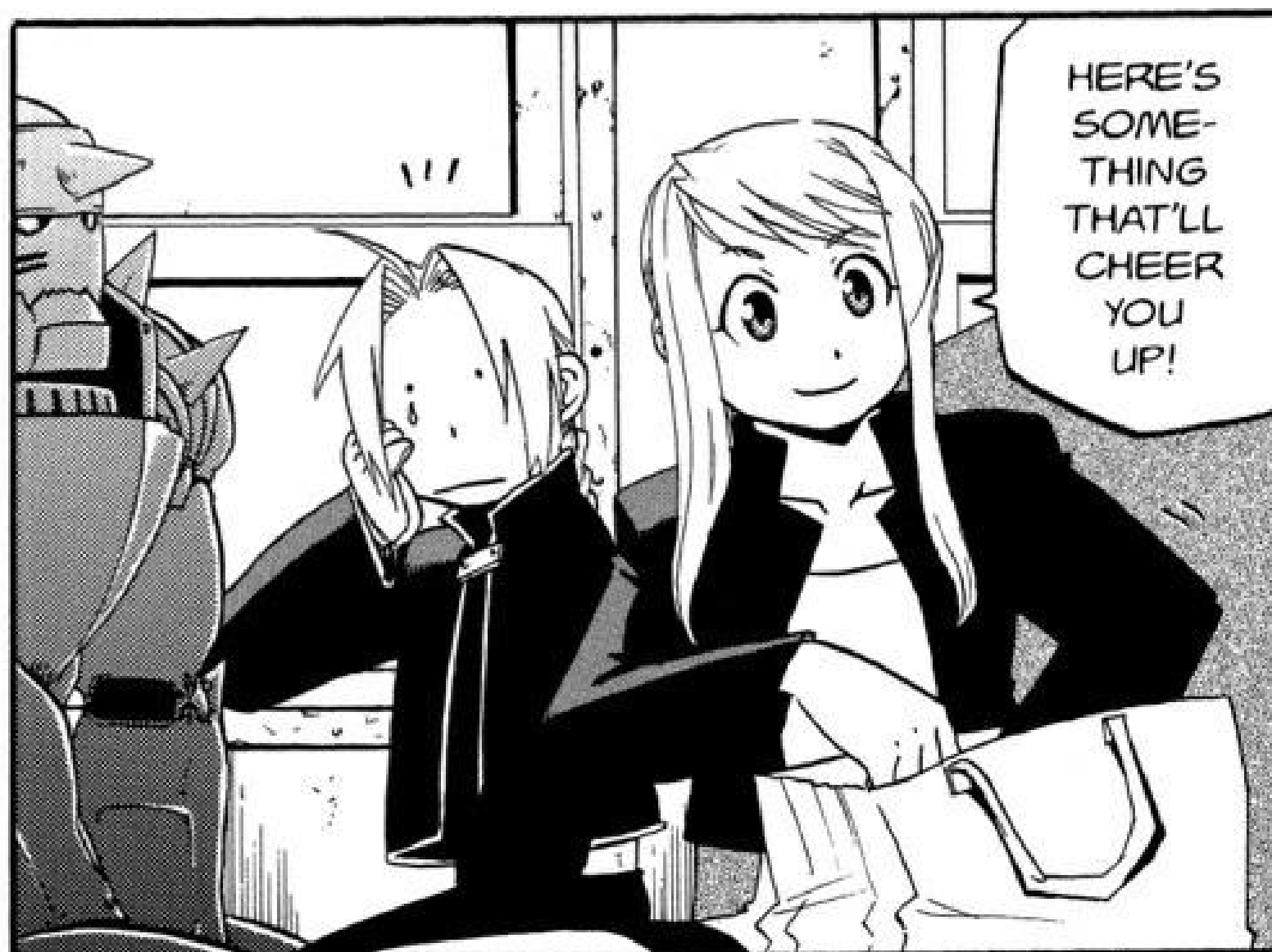
FIRST
OF ALL,
TO GET
STRONGER.

I'VE BEEN
LOSING SO
MANY FIGHTS
LATELY...





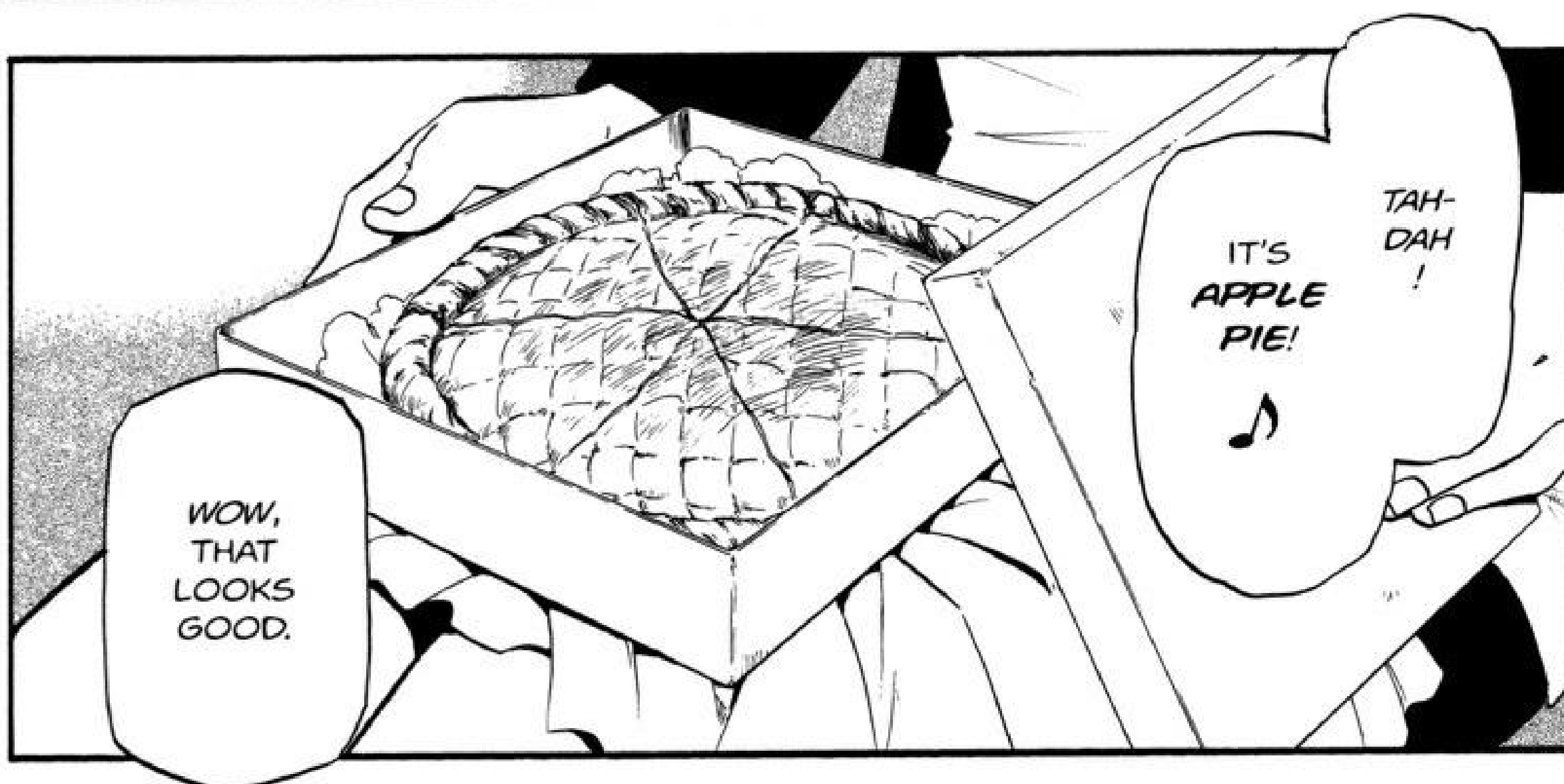




HERE'S
SOME-
THING
THAT'LL
CHEER
YOU
UP!



OH
YEAH
!



WOW,
THAT
LOOKS
GOOD.

IT'S
APPLE
PIE!

TAH-
DAH
!



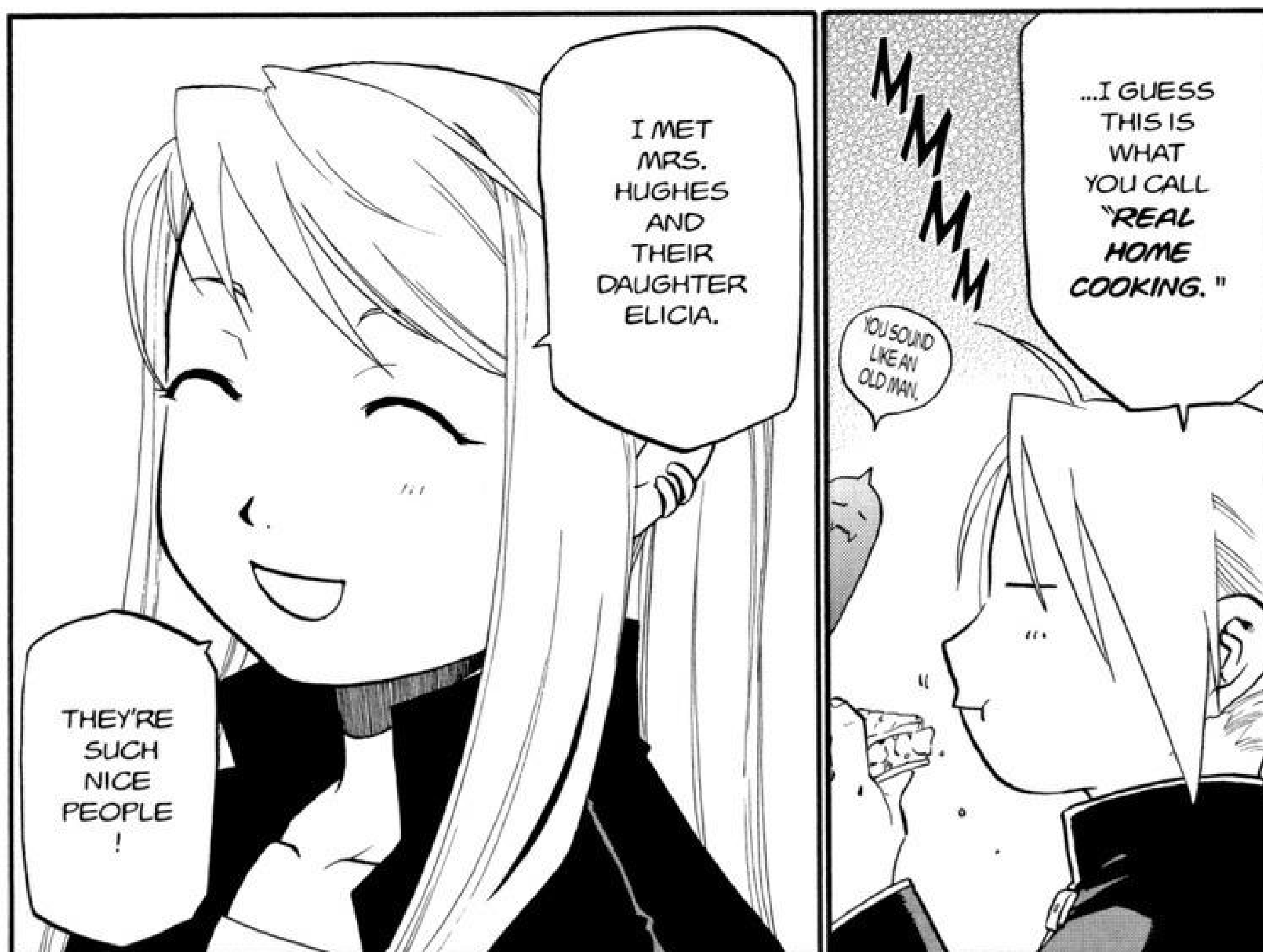
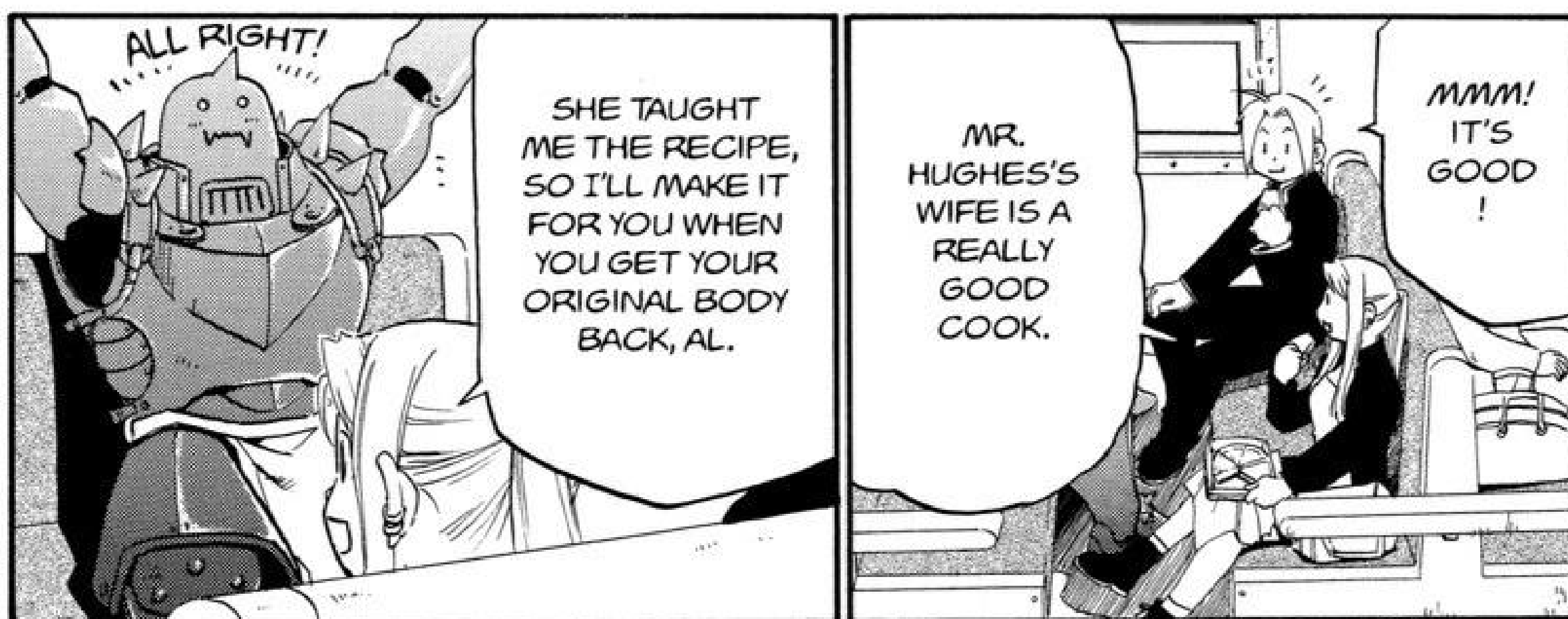
AH HA HA.
I THINK
SHE MADE
ENOUGH
FOR THREE
PEOPLE.

IT
SURE
IS
BIG.

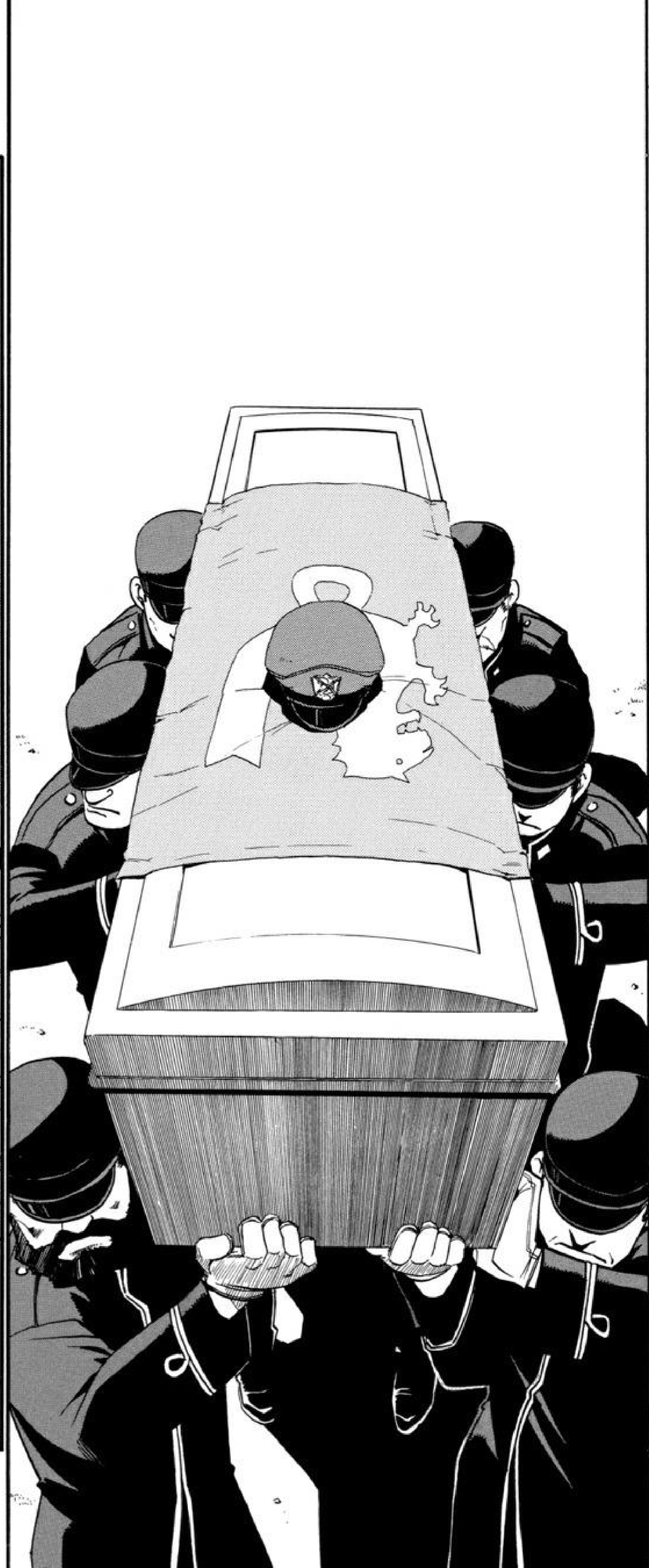
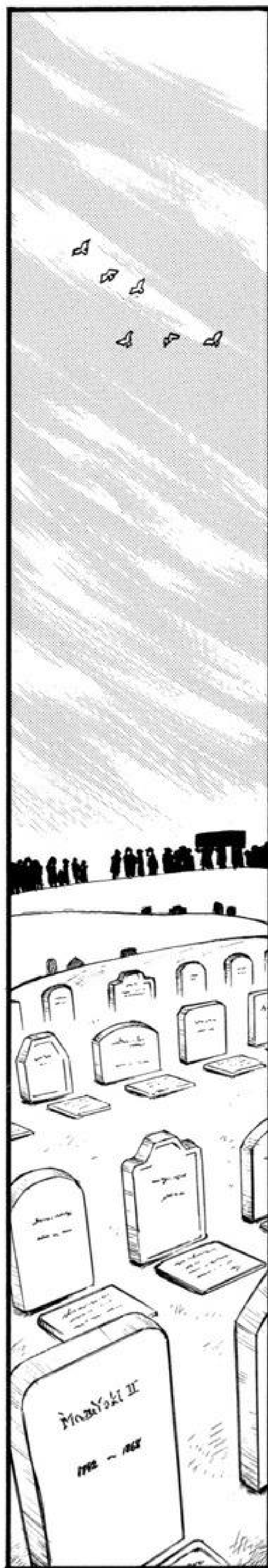


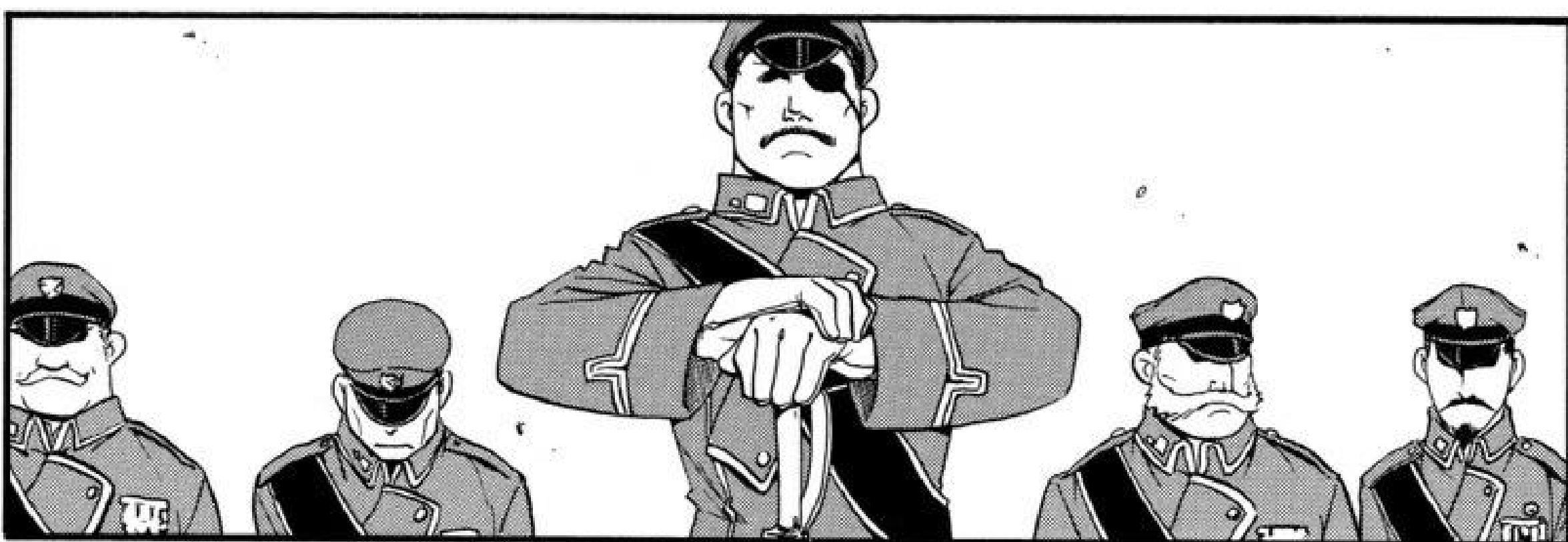
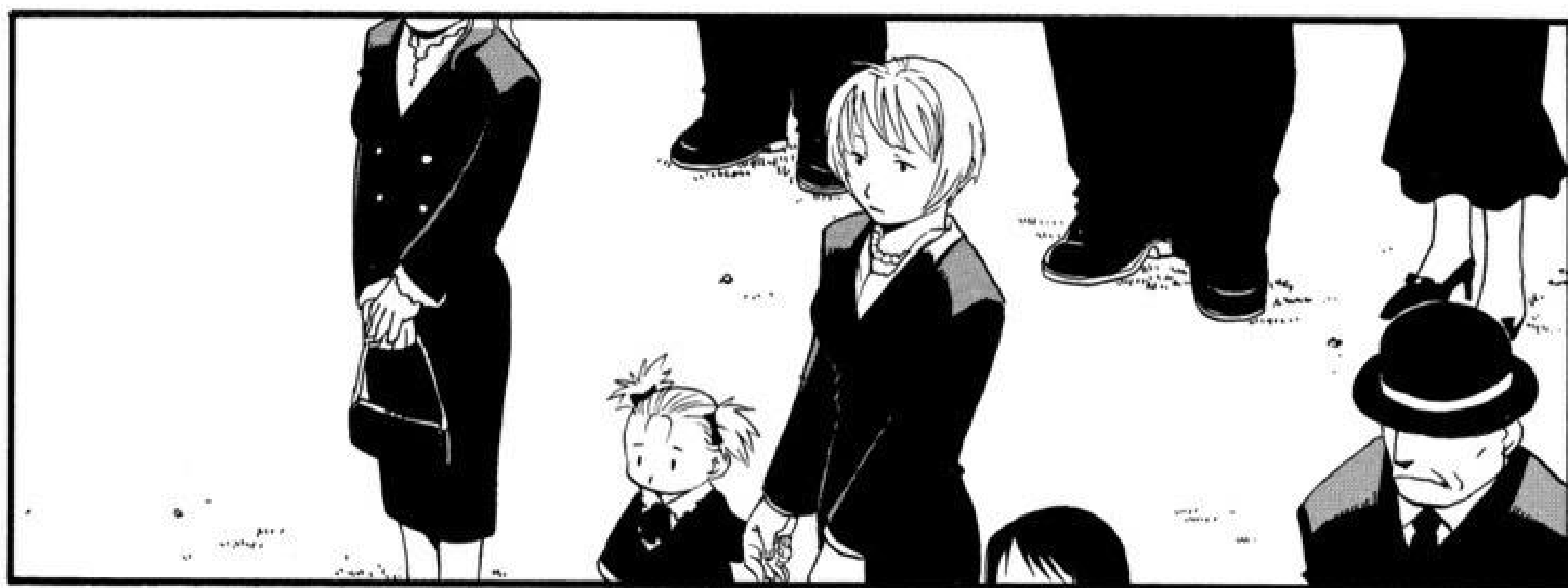
WHERE'D
YOU
GET
THAT?

MR. HUGHES'
WIFE GAVE IT
ME SO THAT
WE COULD EAT
IT ON THE
TRAIN.





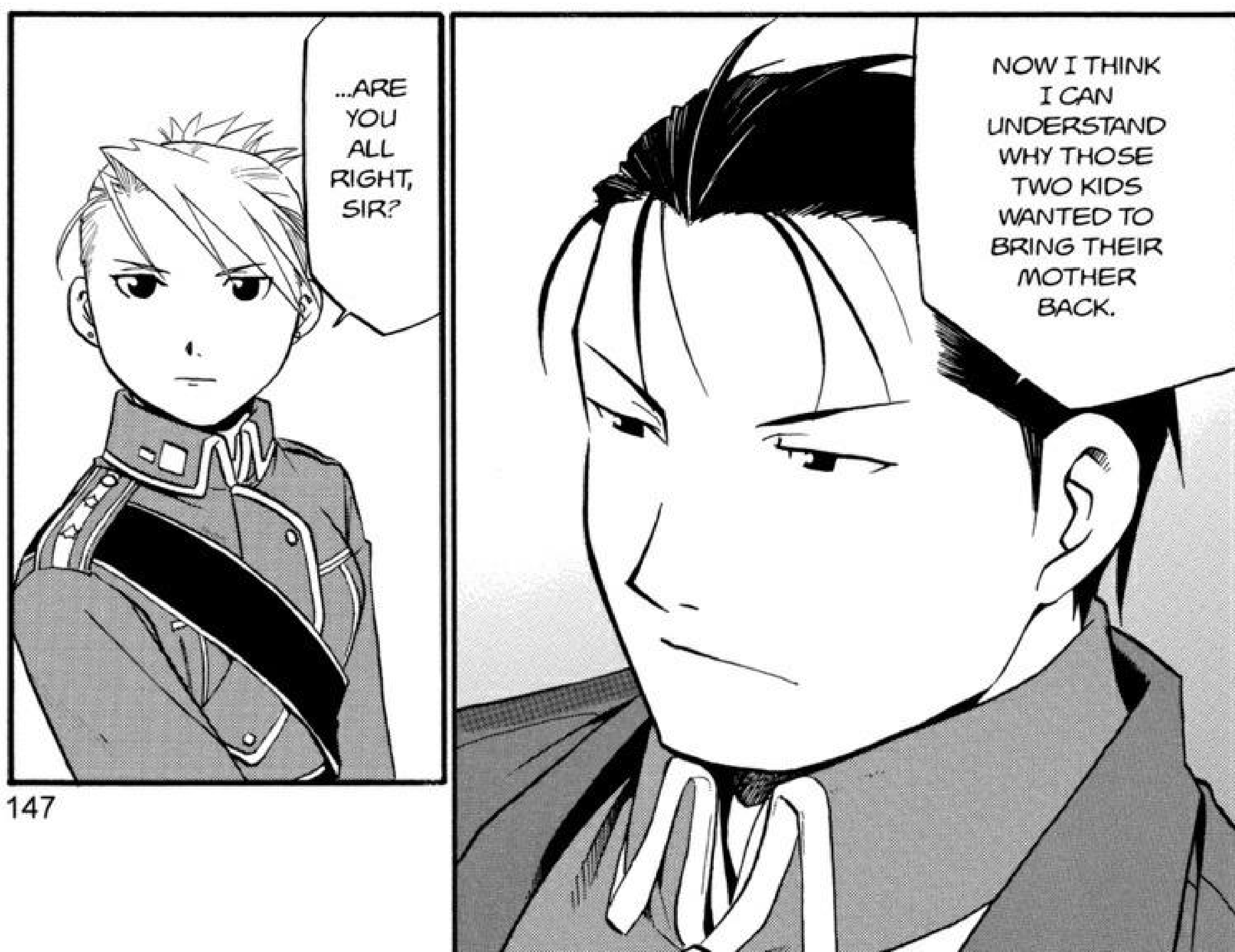






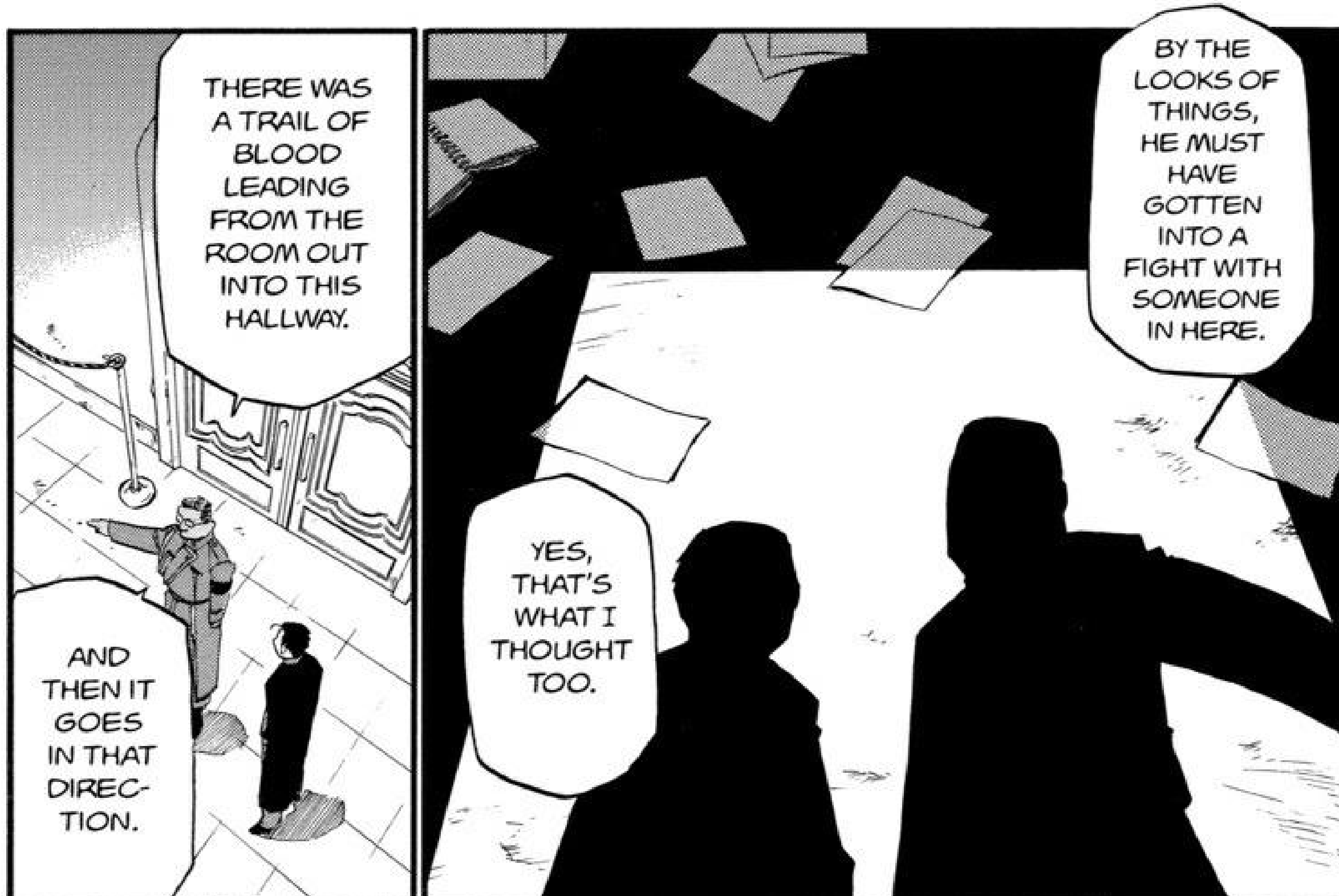
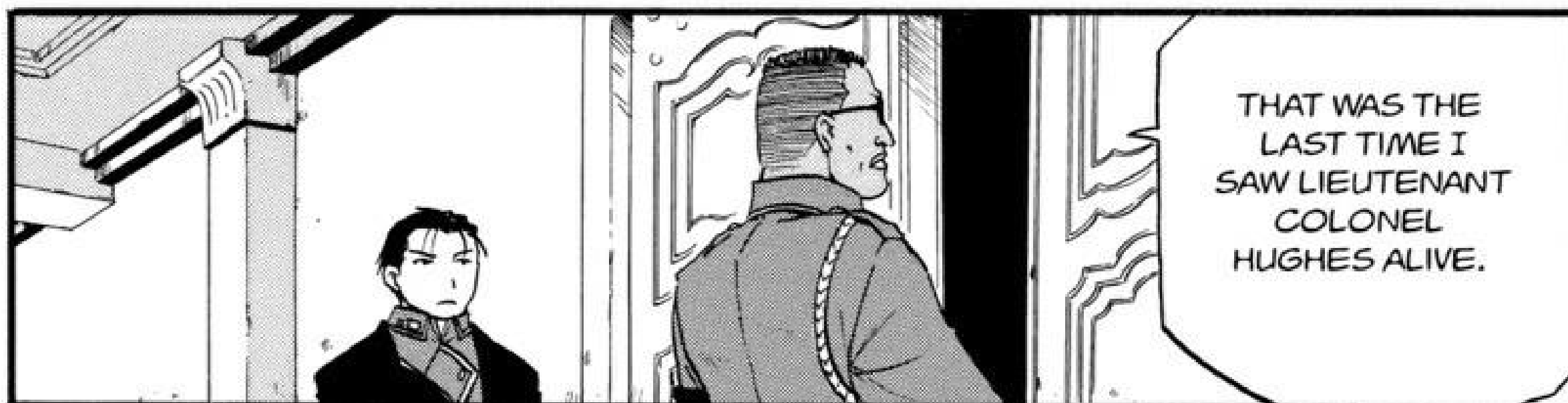




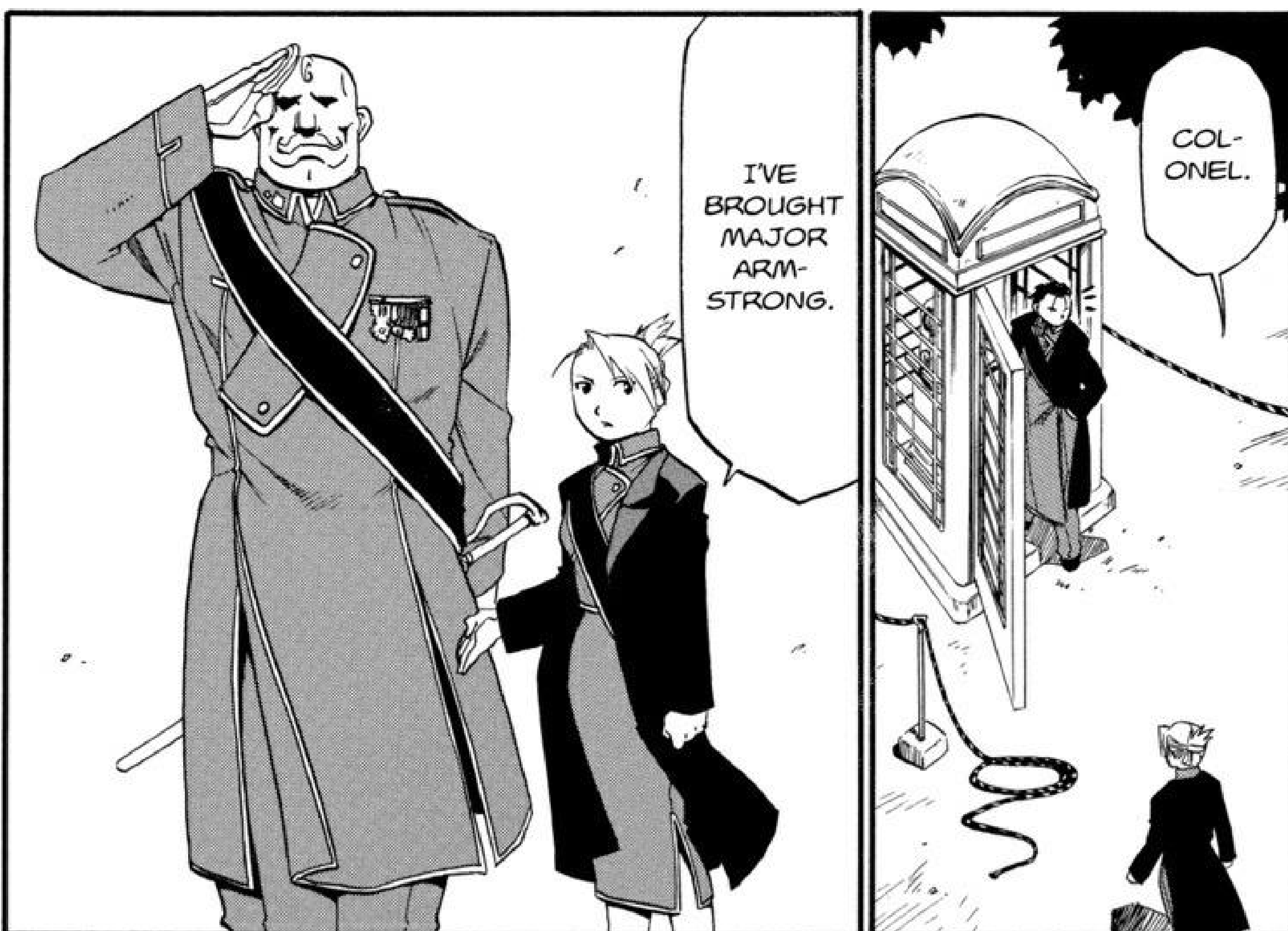
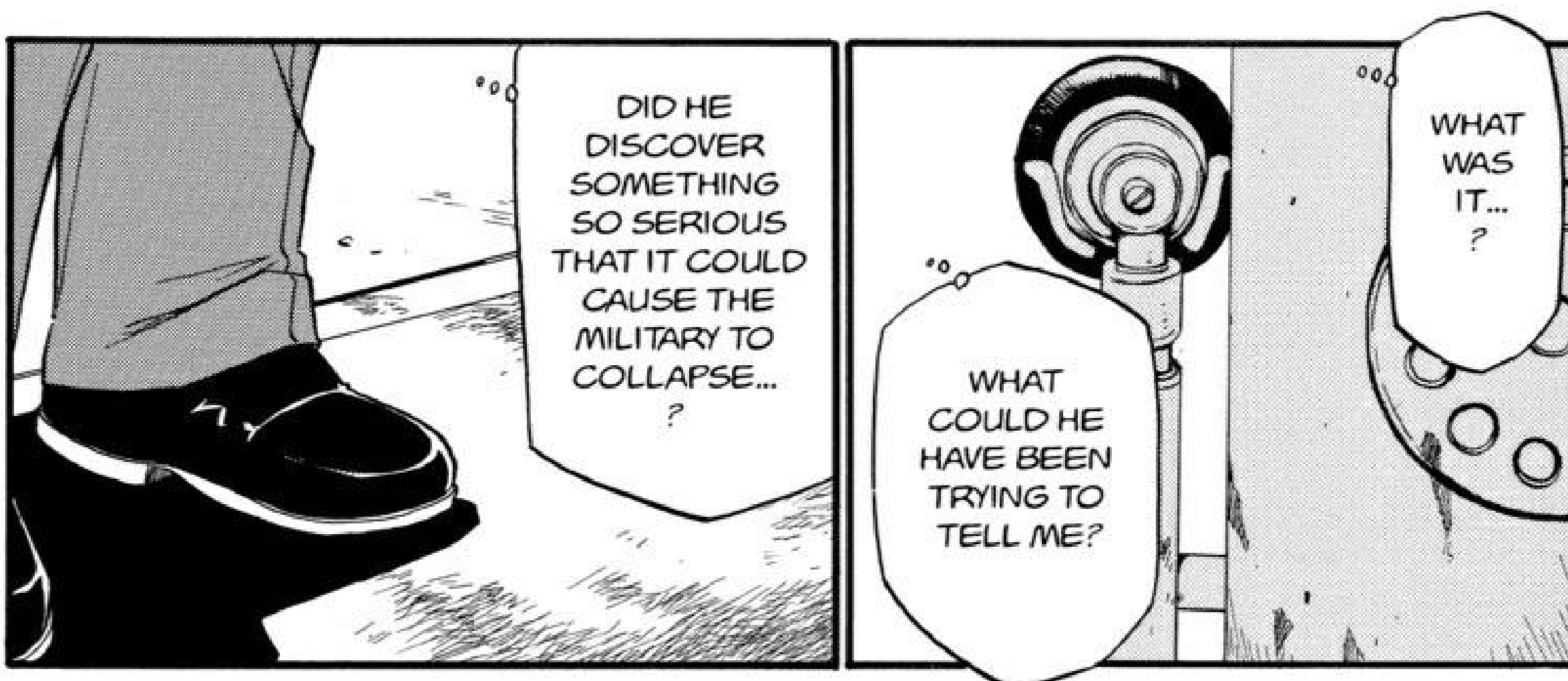














I'M SORRY,
SIR. I SAID
WE HAVE
AN **IDEA**
BUT WE
DON'T KNOW
WHO OR
WHERE
THEY ARE.



?



WE HAVE
A GOOD
IDEA OF THE
IDENTITIES
OF THE
INDIVIDUALS
THAT
MURDERED
THE LT.
COLONEL.

THEN
WHY
DON'T
YOU
HURRY
UP AND
ARREST
THEM
!!?



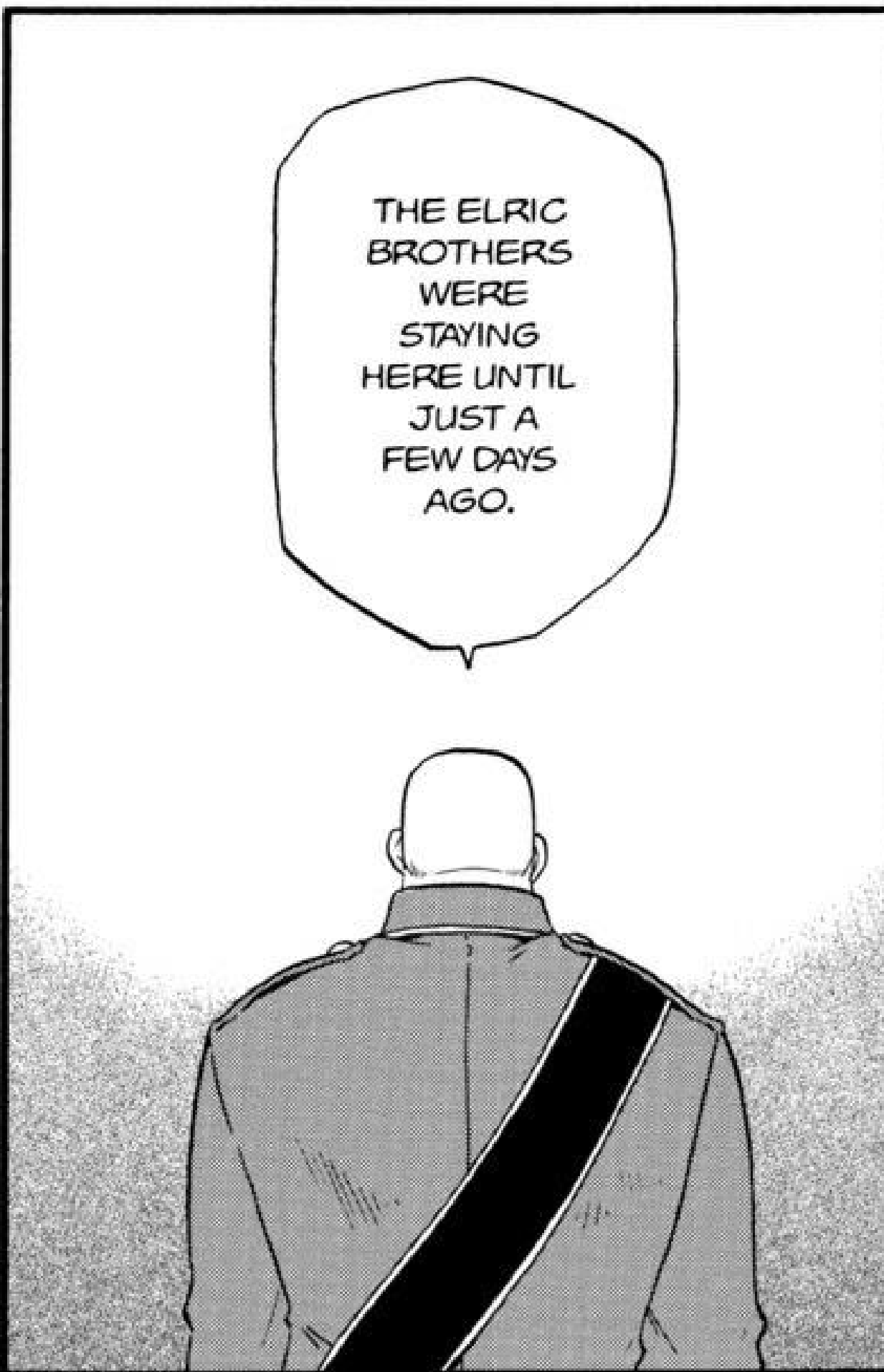
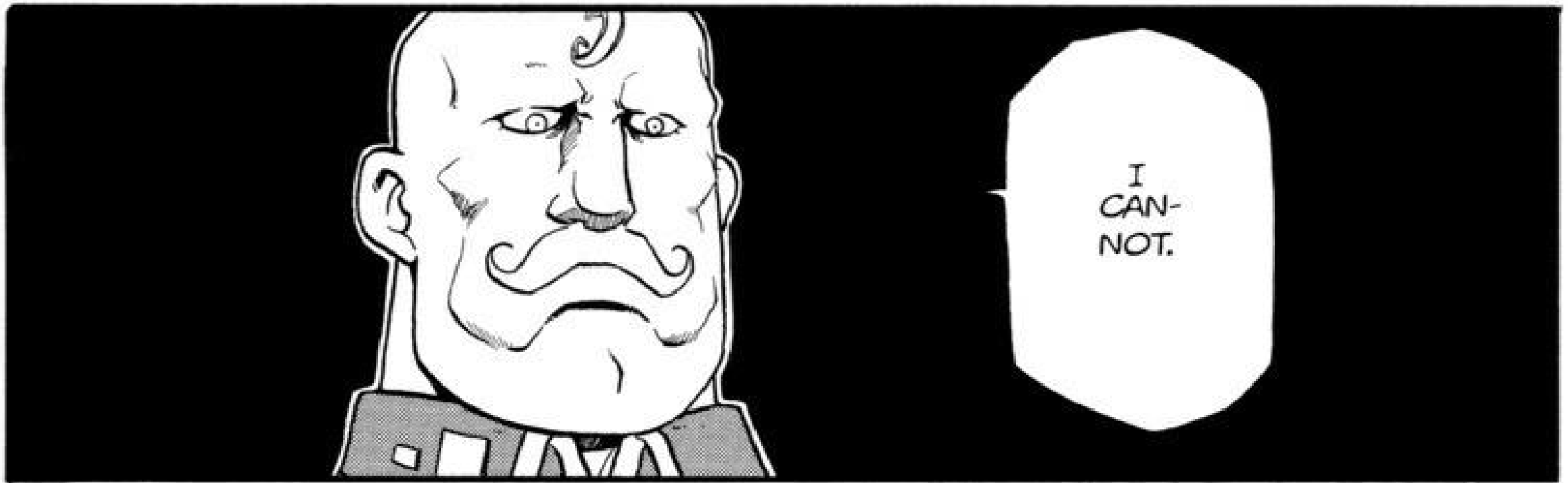
ARE YOU
DISOBEYING
THE
ORDERS
OF A
SUPERIOR
OFFICER
!?

A
COLONEL
IS
ORDERING
YOU
TO
SPEAK!



I
CAN-
NOT.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN
BY THAT?
EXPLAIN
YOUR-
SELF.



THE ELRIC BROTHERS
WERE
STAYING
HERE UNTIL
JUST A
FEW DAYS
AGO.



YOU
CAN
GO.

YES,
SIR.

I
UNDER-
STAND.
I'M
SORRY
FOR
CALLING
YOU OUT
HERE.



...THERE'S
ONE THING
THAT I
FORGOT
TO TELL
YOU.





ON THE
CONTRARY,
THE MAJOR
WAS VERY
KIND TO
US.

?

...I GUESS
WE WEREN'T
ABLE TO
GET ANY
SIGNIFICANT
INFORMATION.



PERHAPS A
GROUP OF
INDIVIDUALS
WORKING
WITHIN AN
ORGANI-
ZATION...

"THE IDENTITY
OF THE
INDIVIDUALS"
MEANS THAT
THERE WAS
MORE THAN ONE
MURDERER.



NOT TO
MENTION
*WHAT THE
ELRIC
BROTHERS
ARE
LOOKING
FOR...*

THE FACT THAT HE
WOULDN'T SPEAK,
EVEN WHEN ORDERED
BY A COLONEL, MEANS
THAT THERE IS SOMEONE
OF HIGHER RANK THAN
MYSELF WHO HAS
ORDERED THE MAJOR
TO STAY SILENT ABOUT
THIS MATTER.

IT WOULD
BE SAFE TO
ASSUME
THAT
MILITARY
COMMAND
IS
INVOLVED.



I SEE...

IN OTHER WORDS, THE **PHILOSOPHER'S STONE**.



BUT I'M NOT GOING TO JUST LET THIS DIE.

WHO KNOWS? I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST.

HOW ARE THEY ALL CONNECTED?

AN ORGANIZATION THAT'S INVOLVED WITH THE MILITARY COMMAND, THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, AND LT. COLONEL HUGHES...

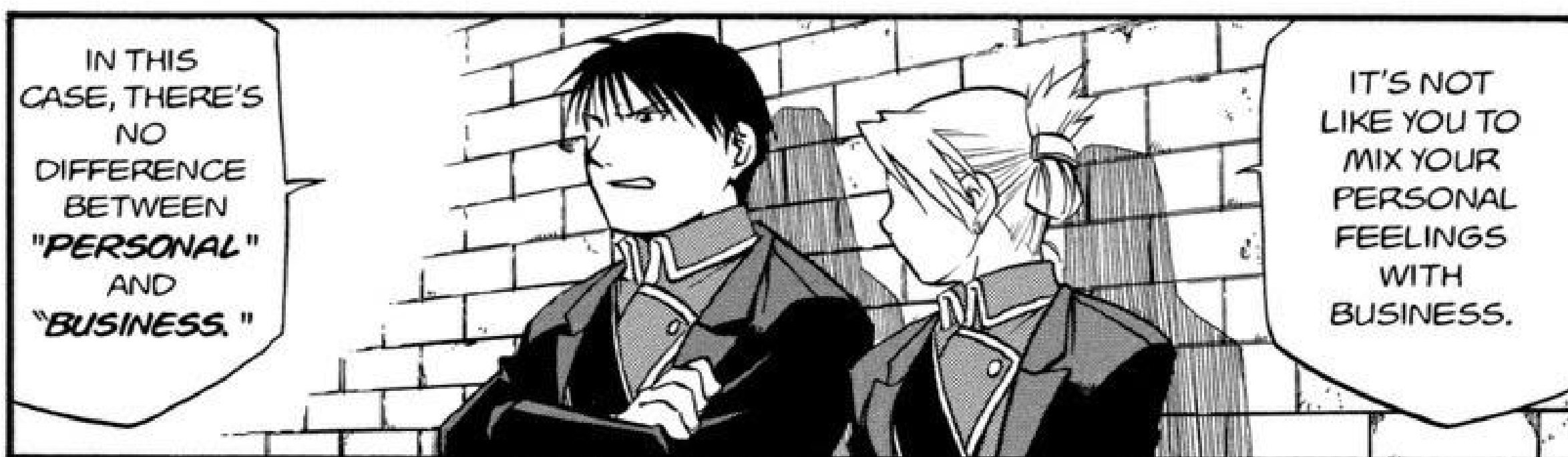


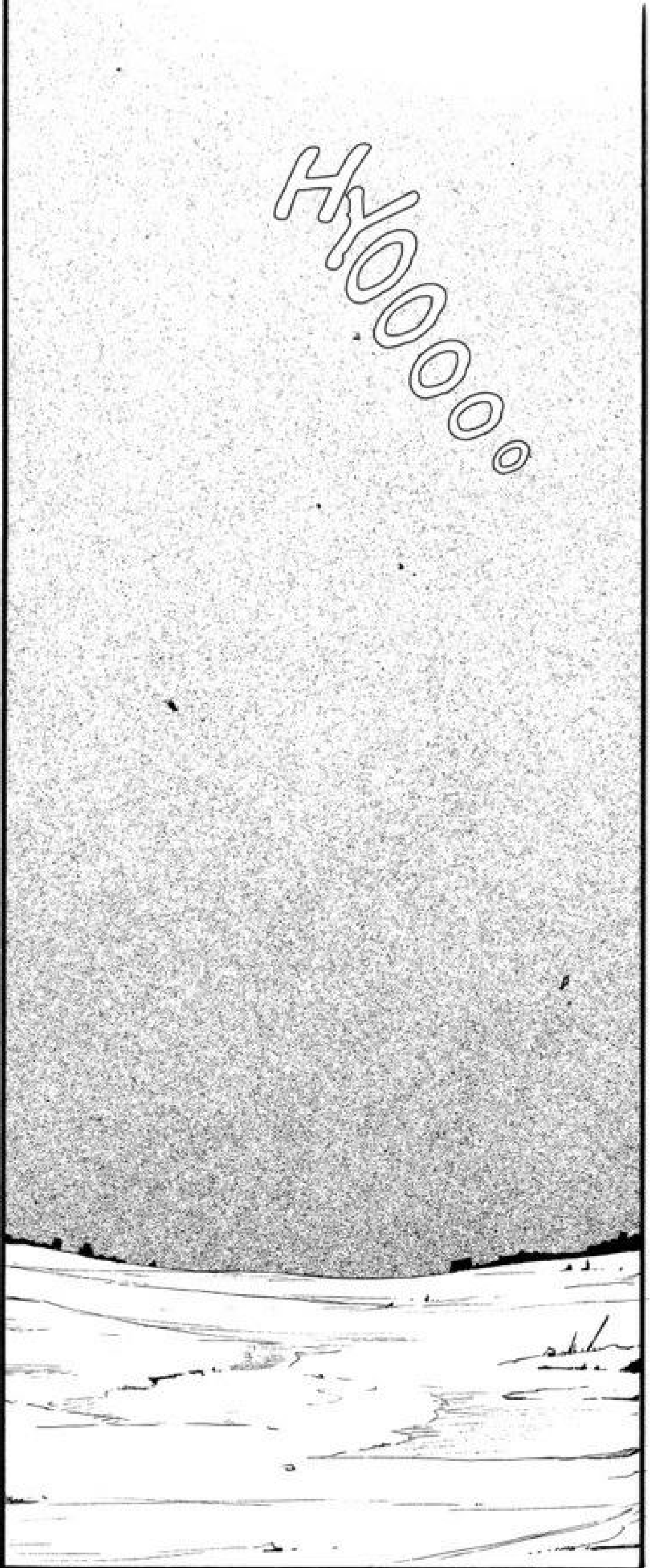
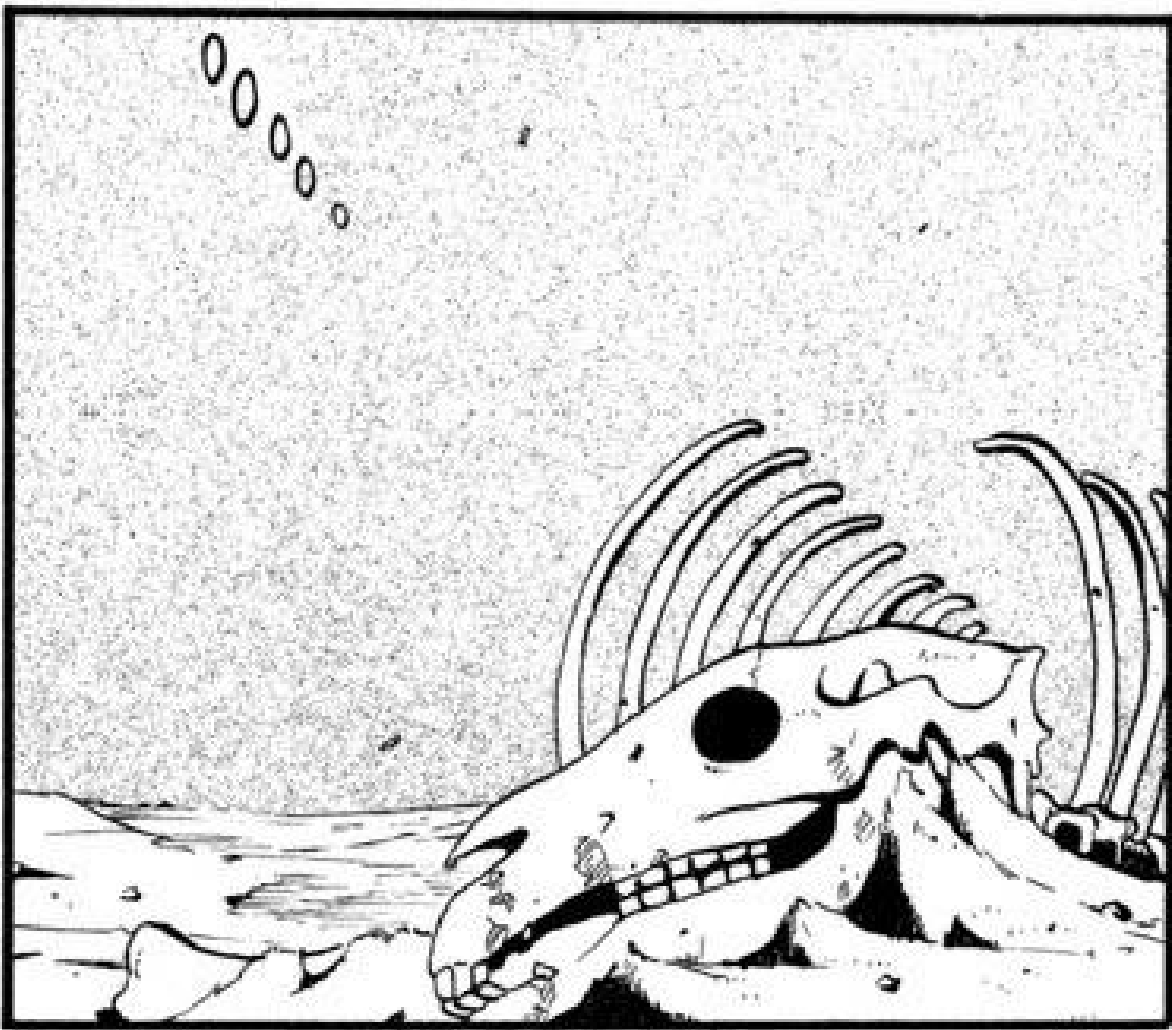
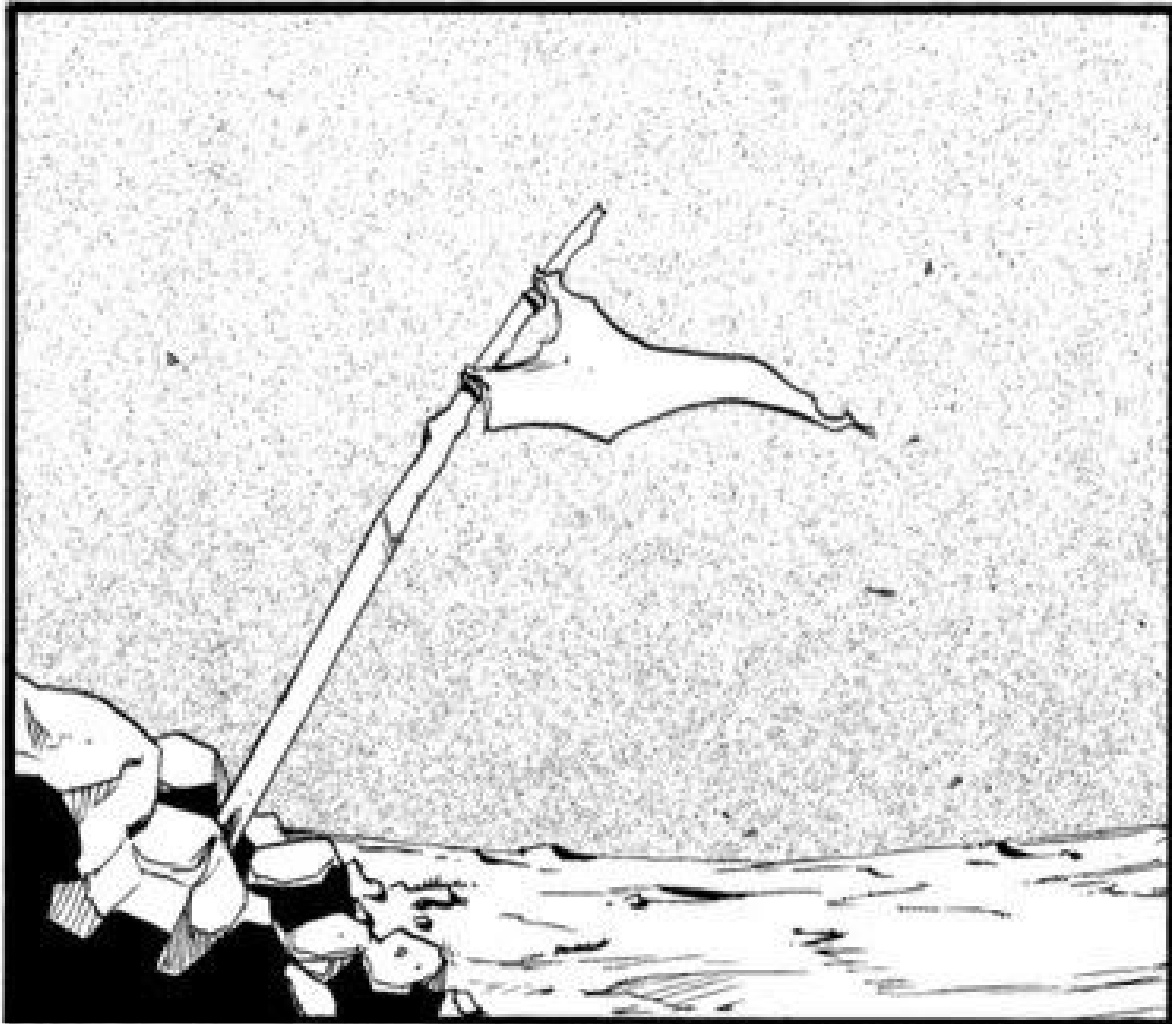
I WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN MILITARY COMMAND AND FIND OUT WHO KILLED HUGHES. **NO MATTER WHAT.**

THIS IS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

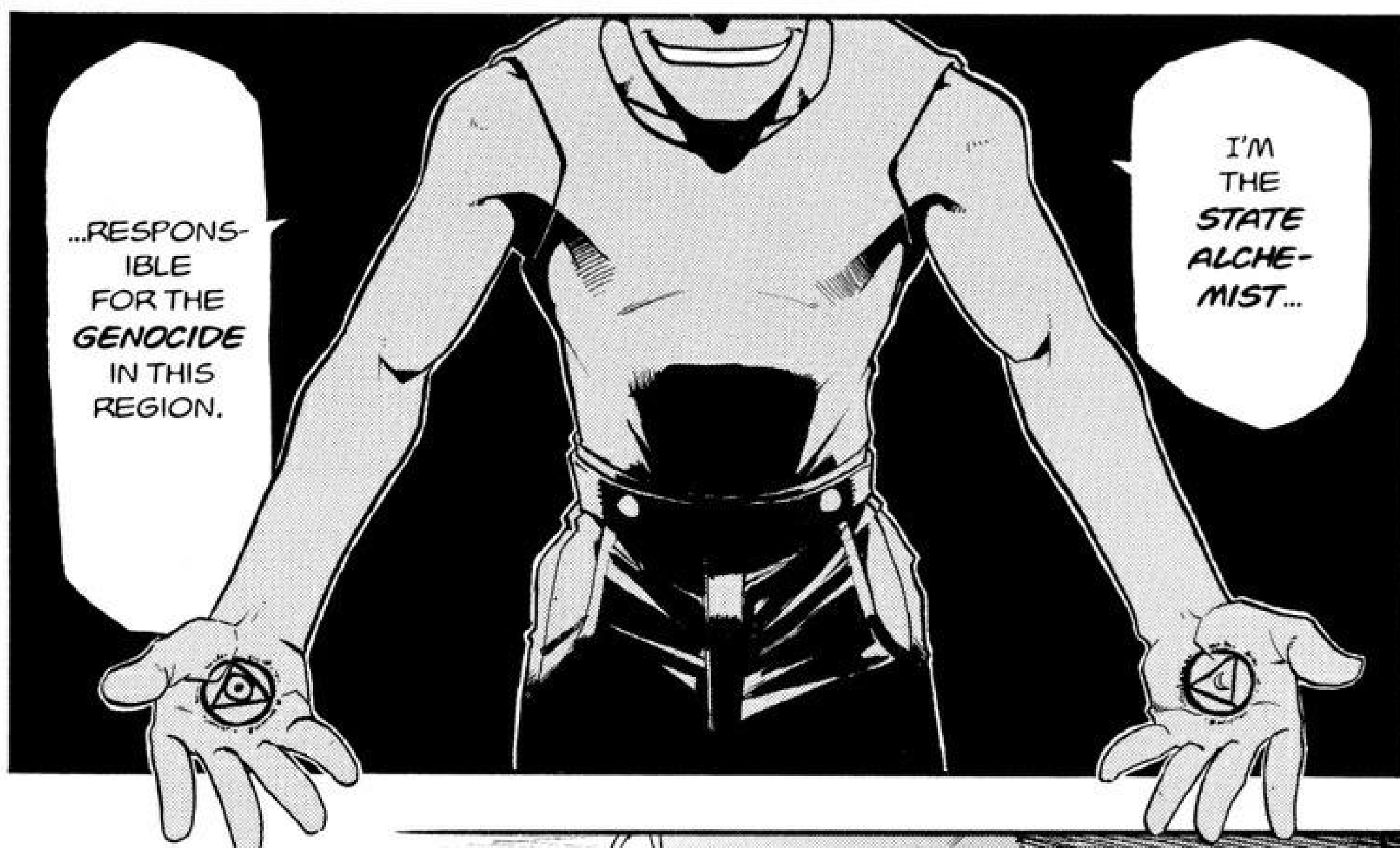
OH. CONGRATULATIONS.

SOON I WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO CENTRAL.

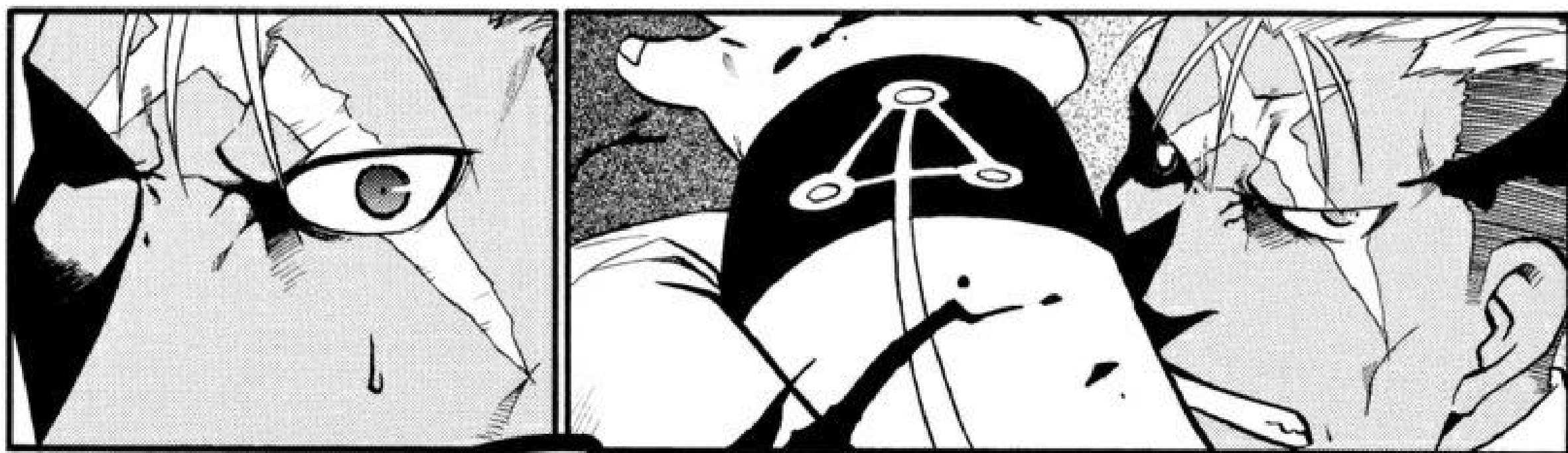


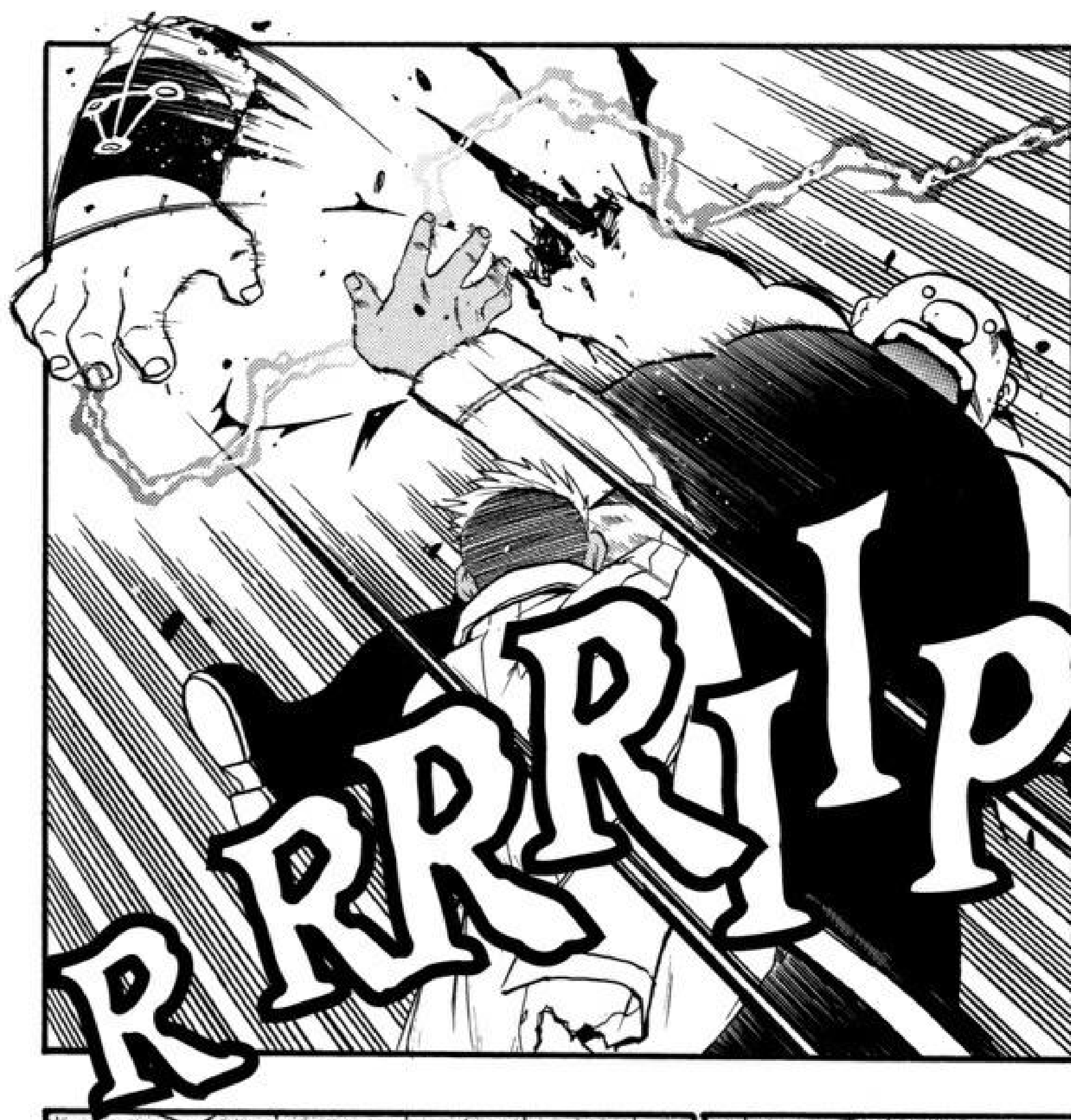








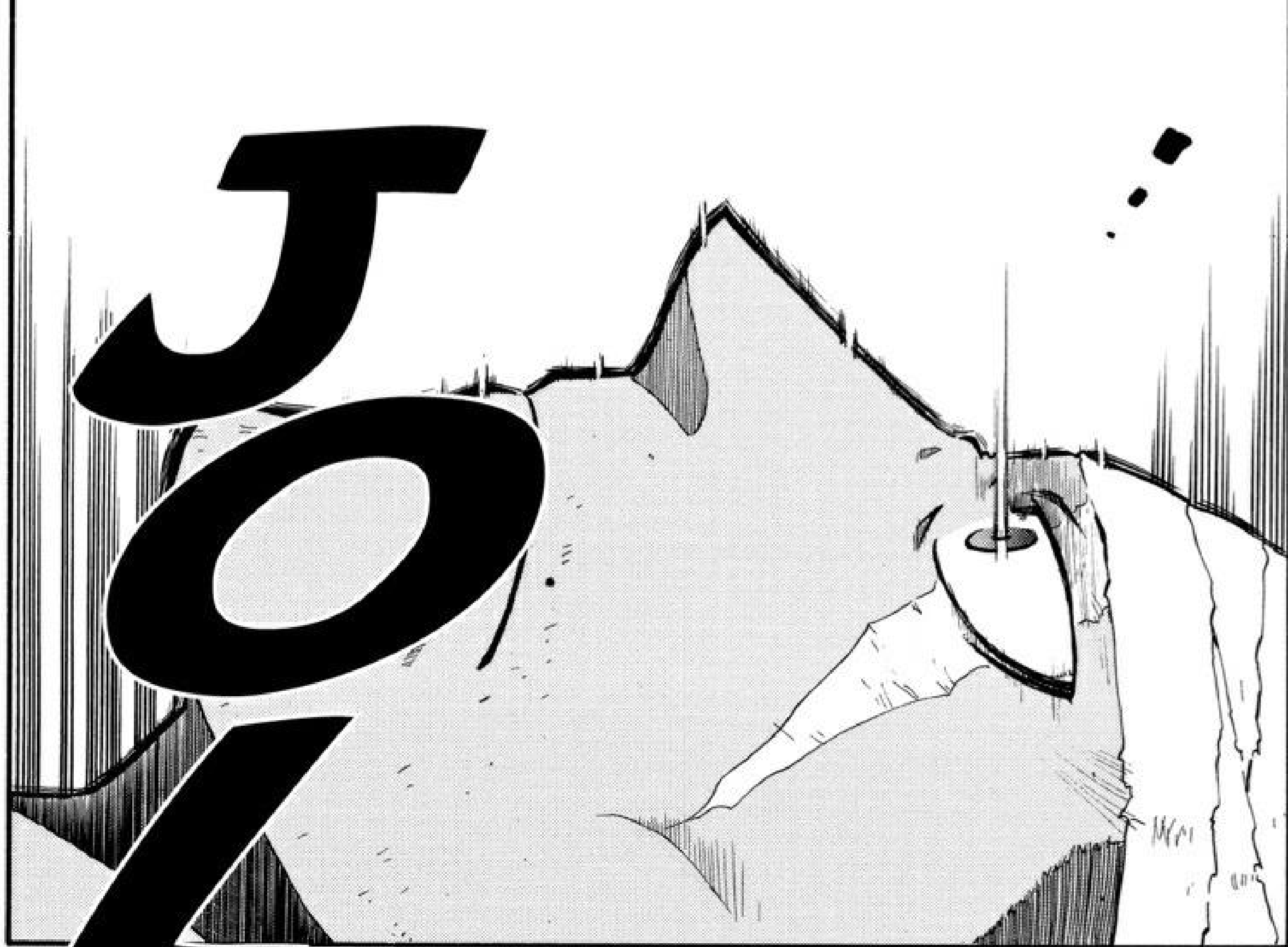






BOOOOM





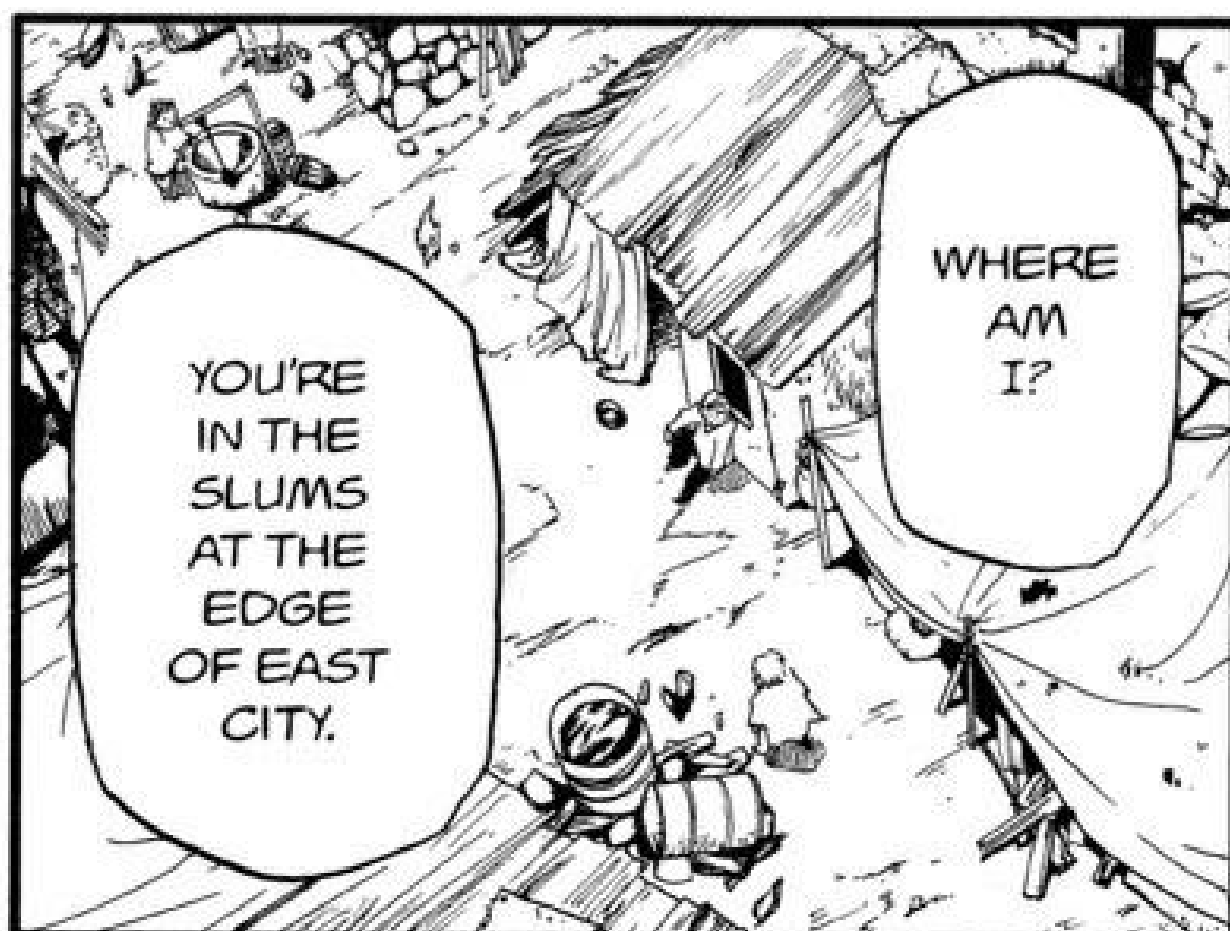


YUP. WE
DIDN'T
THINK YOU
WOULD
MAKE IT.

...I'M...
ALIVE
?



OH
!
YOU'RE
AWAKE.



YOU'RE
IN THE
SLUMS
AT THE
EDGE
OF EAST
CITY.

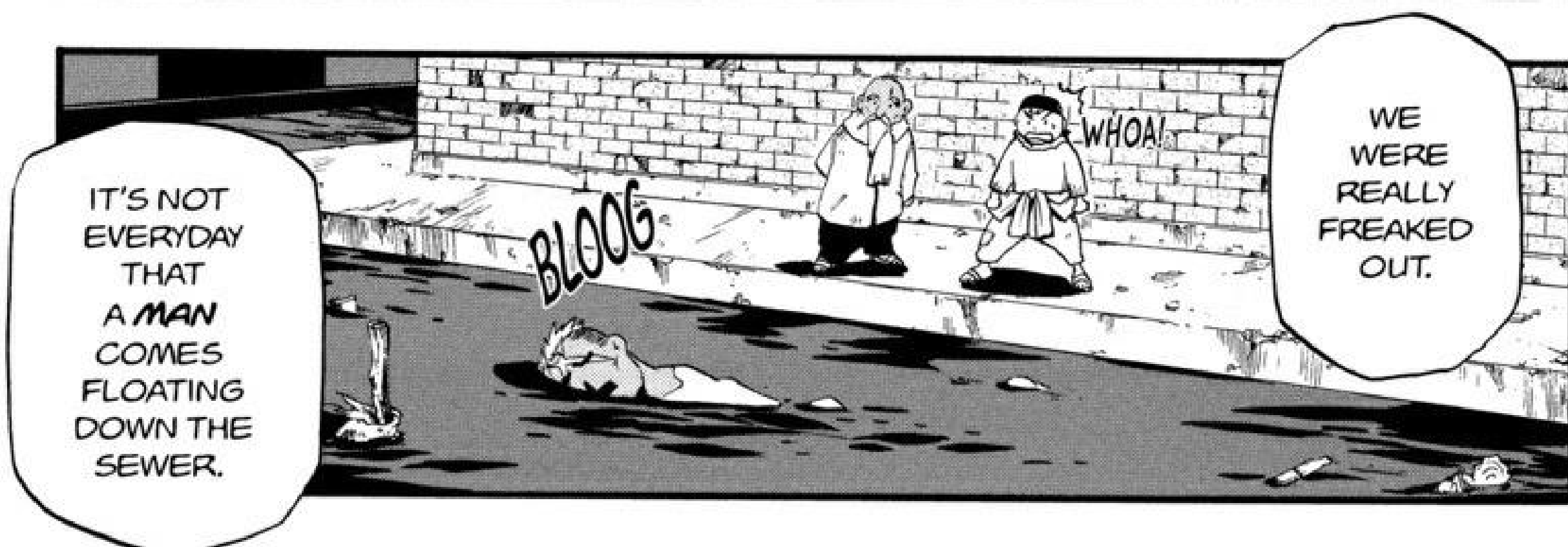
WHERE
AM
I?



UH HUH.
YOU
BETTER
THANK
ME!

Deh
Heh
Heh!

...YOU
SAVED
ME?

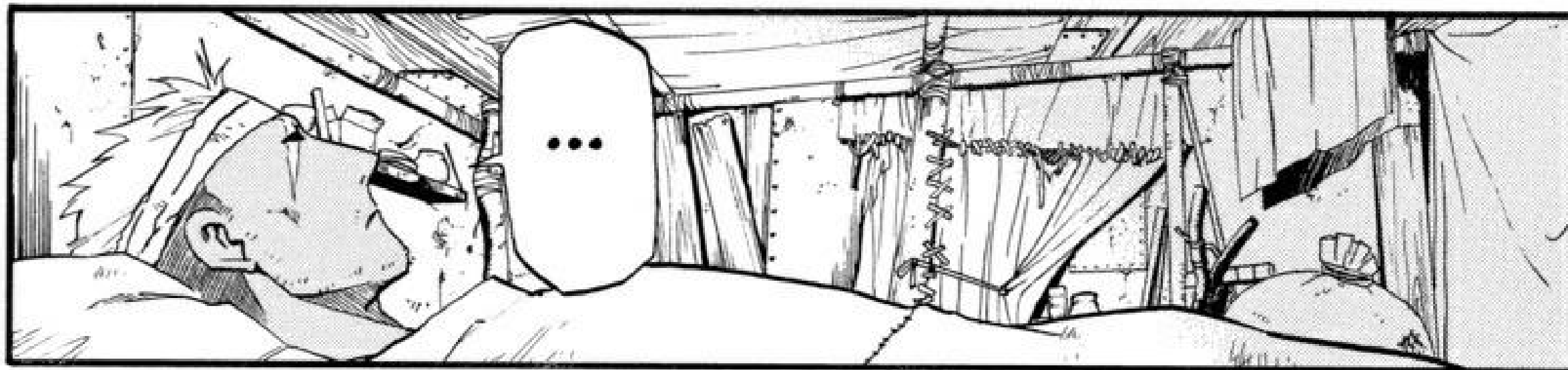


IT'S NOT
EVERYDAY
THAT
A **MAN**
COMES
FLOATING
DOWN THE
SEWER.

BLOOG

WHOA!

WE
WERE
REALLY
FREAKED
OUT.







WE DON'T HAVE MUCH, BUT WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN!

GAB

GAB

LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, OKAY?

GAHHAAAA

GAB

HE'S AWAKE.

PHEW, THAT'S GOOD.



HEY, I HEARD HE'S AWAKE !



THERE ARE SMALL COLONIES IN **EVERY** REGION WHERE OUR PEOPLE CONTINUE TO SURVIVE QUIETLY BUT HAPPILY.

IT'S NOT JUST **HERE**, EITHER.

SO MANY ISHBALANS SURVIVED... ?



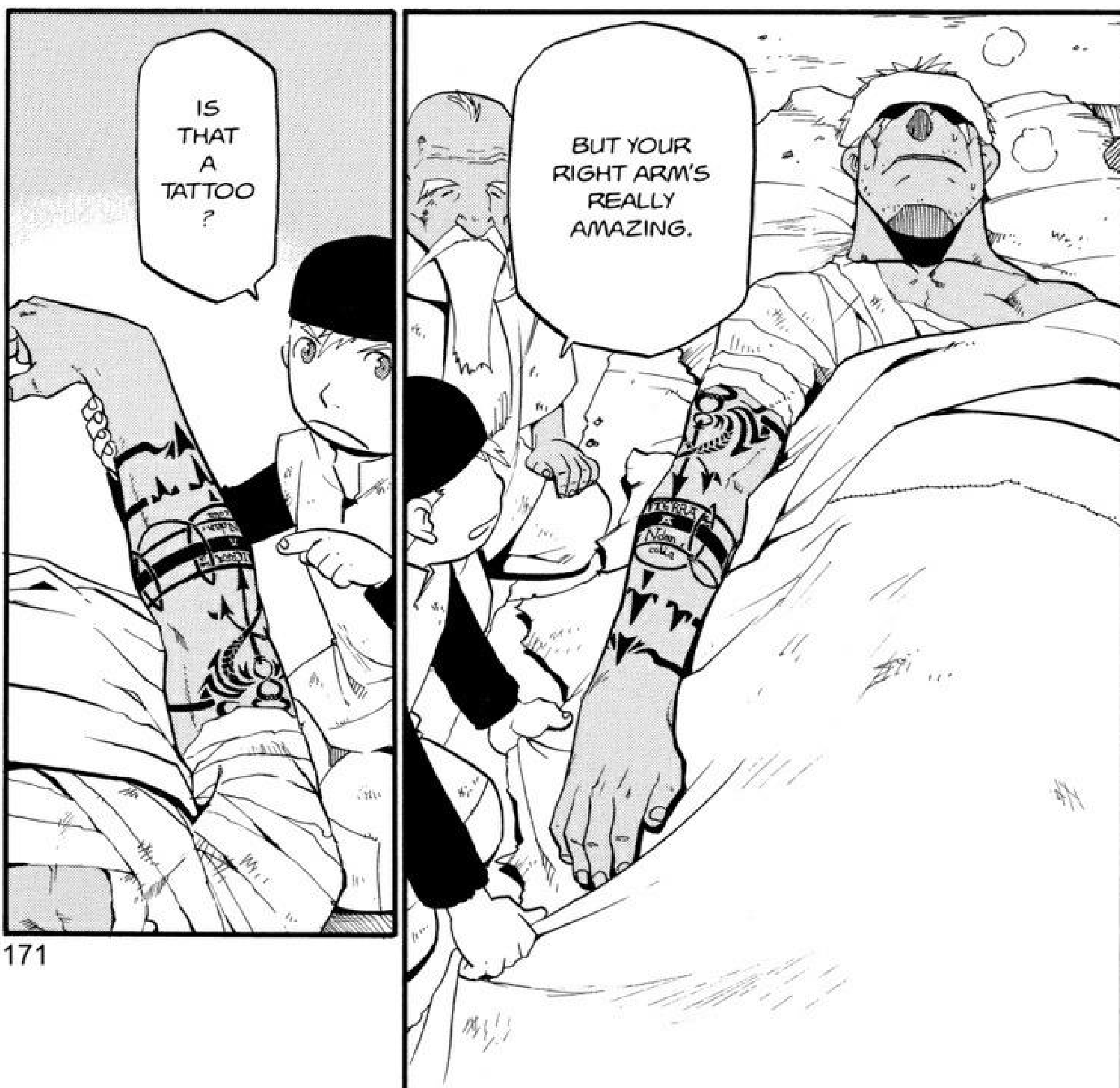
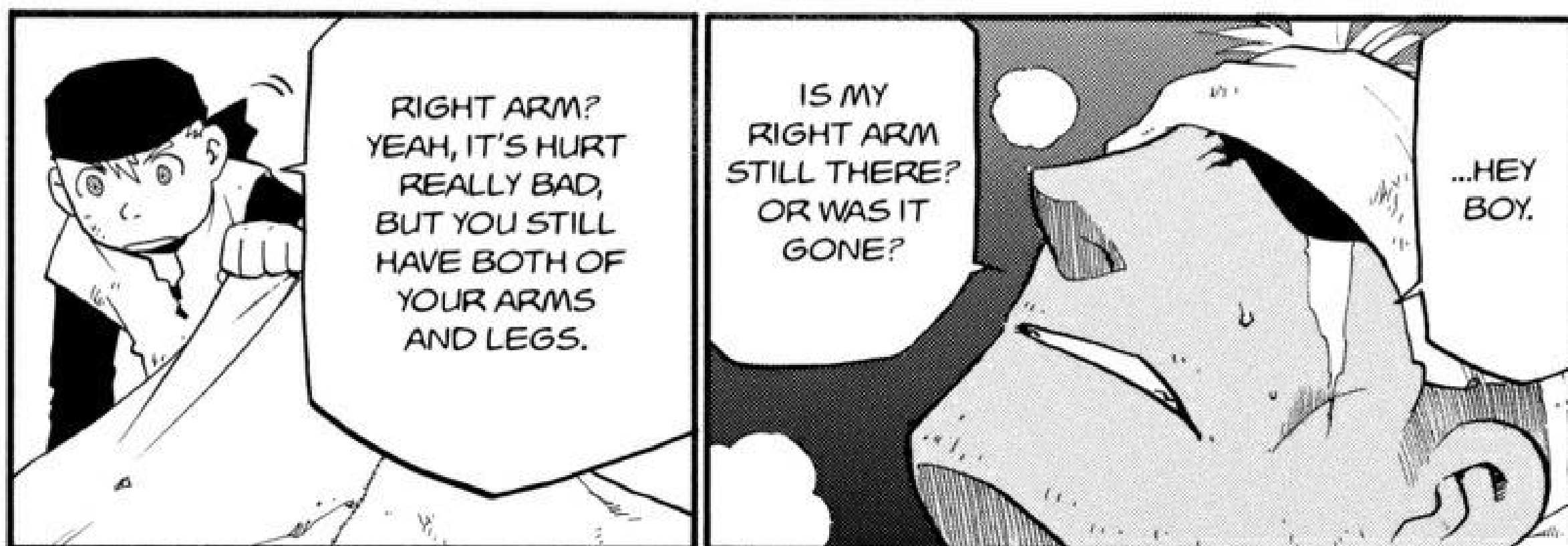
...YES.



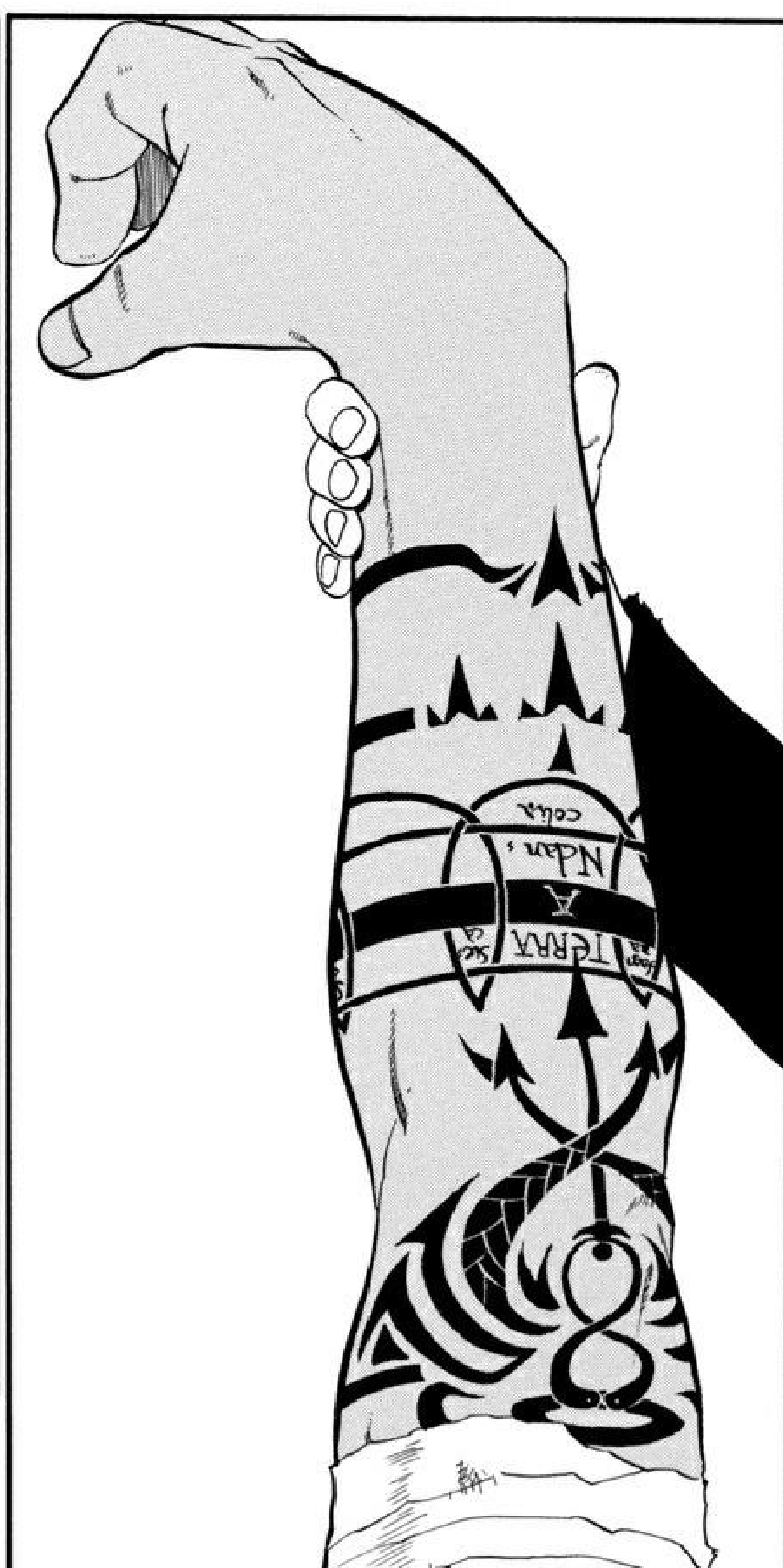
"THE ENTIRE WORLD RESTS WITHIN THE BOSOM OF ISHBALA."

KAH
KAH
KAH

EVEN A PLACE LIKE THIS THAT SMELLS OF SOOT BEGINS TO FEEL LIKE **HOME** ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT.



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FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST